

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3 are independent claims. By this preliminary amendment, claims 1-5 are amended for clarity and to correct minor informalities contained therein.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Carolyn T. Baumgardner (Reg. No. 41,345) at (703) 205-8000 to schedule a Personal Interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment from or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17; particularly, the extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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